

8. (Amended) The isolated *Escherichia coli* according to claim 7, wherein the bacterium has an ability to produce and accumulate arginine in a medium when the bacterium is cultivated in the medium, and which forms a colony within 2 days at 37°C when the bacterium is cultivated on an agar medium containing acetic acid or acetate as a sole carbon source.

Please add the following new claims:

23 (New) The isolated *Escherichia coli* according to claim 7, wherein the bacterium is *Escherichia coli* strain 382 deposited as VKPM B-7926 and mutants thereof.

BASIS FOR THE AMENDMENT

Claims 7-8 have been amended.

Claim 23 has been added.

Support for the amendment of Claims 7-8 and new Claim 23 is found in Claims 1-6 and the specification as originally filed, in particular, page 6, lines 4-9 and page 8, line 4 to page 9, line 10.

No new matter is believed to have been added by these amendments.